



phreakin' italy!

By: w1nt3rmut3



A fairly universal topic, phreaking. The phone system here is very different than the one in the states, well at least in Rome. The pay phones are run by basically the same company, Puntotel. The big diff is that 99.9% of the phones are used by cards, not coins. Coin ones are very rare. The cards come in multiple sizes, ranging from 2.50 euros, to 10 and higher. They are also all the same exact type, except some take just cards, and some take cards and coin. They also have a lot of features, besides talking. They allow for SMS, email, and fax. emails run for about 20 cents, and the SMS is, I believe 10 cents, but I cant use it, b/c it can be only used to message European cellies. A normal call would go like this:

- 1) pop the card in
- 2) pick up the receiver
- 3) dial the city code your in (06 for Rome)
- 4) dial the number

That's for intra-Rome. Its akin to 10 digit dialing in the states. then, you press the fat OK button. The other funny thing is that it doesn't dial until you are done typing in the number. Its sorta like dial tone emulation on some pay phones, where it waits for the whole number then dials. One big difference between Italy and the states is that numbers can be of any length.

USA: 1 + NPA + xxx + xxxx

Rome: 06 + whatever length you have



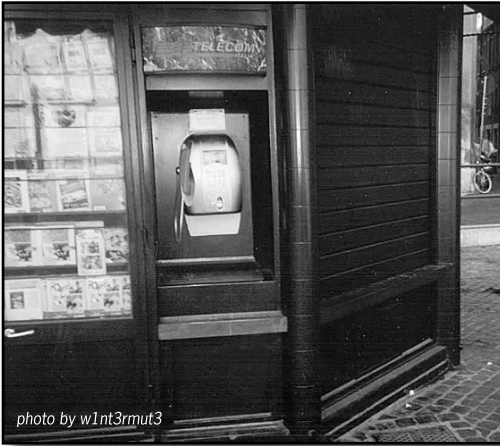
photo by w1nt3rmut3

Its sorta like a step-by-step, taking in the digits as it comes. Oh, and in case your wondering the dial tone is totally different. Its a beeping, about a second long, and a second of silence.



ODDITIES:*4-digits*

You have heard numbers on the radio like dial star something on your Joe Blow cell phone provider for requests on some Clear Channel station. They have something similar here, but for the land lines. Rome is a big tourist attraction, not to mention a big ass city, so you either turn to public transportation (a whole other file) or taxi. The taxis make it simple. Dialing 3750 or other 4 digit numbers give you instant access to a taxi company, or perhaps other companies, simplifying the extortion of your money.

*Permanent Marker*

Something I have noticed on a lot of payphones is 3 digit numbers written on the sides. At first I thought this was isolated, but I looked around, and they're everywhere. My guess is there is some way to call the phones, but I have yet to figure that out.

Long-Distance Dialing

I have been known to make long distance calls, and i need some help in saving some money, so I use 101's for that in the states, but

you gotta go for the cards here in Rome. Stumbling upon a phone shop, they offered me 100 minutes to the states for 5 euros. What a deal. After making some calls, I soon find out that the card has gone from 80 minutes, to 30 minutes. WTF? Thought it was just a glitch. But after buying more, I start to get only 30 minutes, not even a "100" to begin with. My guess is the company that produces them, Vectone, either knew I was coming, or the such proliferation of the cards forced their value down, and in turn killed the minutes. I did find the 800 number busy 50% of the time. BTW, u wanna the number?

800-969-572 (yes, that's 6 digits)

PIN: 9912 723 6971

Good luck using that in the states.

Closing Arguments

So, its all good here in Rome, except for the long distance. If anyone can figure out the 3 digit numbers on the phones, or run into one of my PLA stickers, (bright green), drop me a line at: **w1nt3rmu73@binrev.com**

See ya! 